

Uneasy calm in Ogun communities

From MOSHOOD ADEBAYO, Abeokuta

Uneasy calm has pervaded many towns and villages in Yewa North Local Government Area of Ogun State as Fulani herdsmen allegedly attacked their host communities.

This is coming shortly after a recent peace deal brokered by the state government between the leadership of the affected communities and the herdsmen.

Investigation by Daily Sun revealed that after the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the host communities and the Fulani herdsmen, no fewer than four persons were allegedly shot on December, 18, 2013.

A cultural group, the Ketu Arise, recently sent a letter to the state Governor, Ibikunle Amosun, urging him to stop what it described as an ugly tide within the council area. According to the group, the patience of the host communities were being tampered with almost on daily basis by the Fulani herdsmen, who override their communities with impunity.

It was further learnt that a 5-year-old Ajimoh Adisa was allegedly shot and macheted early last month. Those shot in the morning of December 18 in Igbo-Nla included Alade Eyo, who died on the spot. His body was said to have been recorded by the police. On his own part, one Bondu Oladeyo died on December 19 after he was shot by the herdsmen, who struck two days after the peace memorandum was signed.

Communities affected in the onslaught are Igbo- Nla, Asa, Oguba, Ibore, Ibeku, Agbon, Imoran, Oja-Odan, Igbo-Iro, Moran, Igbeme, Korole, Orobiyi, all in Yewa North local government areas of the state.

Some community leaders, who spoke with Daily Sun on condition of anonymity, while lamenting the development appealed to the state government to save them from extinction.

"It is a sad development that a group of strangers in our communities are killing us on our own soil and we seem helpless.

"As much as we want to respect the agreement we signed with the state, we will not fold our arms and allow our people to be assaulted and killed on their soil for challenging them for destroying their farms."

The community leaders said they had expected the state government to set up an enforcement implementation committee, which would implement the content of the memorandum.